

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC Approves Power Ventures Group Power Plant

MADISON - The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) today approved the application of Power Ventures Group to construct a 530 megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in the Sheboygan Falls Township.

The Commission approved a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for construction of the power plant at the Highway 23 site, and said that Power Ventures Group must start project construction within 12 months. Natural gas would be provided by a new, 1,650 feet long natural gas pipeline to be built by ANR Pipeline Company. The natural gas pipeline would require construction authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Since Power Ventures Group is not a Wisconsin utility, the company originally proposed building the plant to sell electricity wholesale to other utilities in Wisconsin and the Midwest. After applying to the PSC for the authority to construct the power plant, the company started negotiations to sell the CPCN to Alliant Energy, which would in turn lease the generation to a regulated utility, Wisconsin Power & Light Company. PSC approval would be required for this transaction, as well.

The Commission reviewed the project application as it relates to safety, impact on reliability, environmental implications, and to ensure that the project does not unreasonably interfere with local land use and development. The Commission also placed several mitigating conditions on the plant to address environmental concerns, including substantial measures to mitigate noise impacts.

Power Ventures Group must also obtain DNR and Department of Commerce permits and approvals to construct and operate the proposed facility. The DNR has already issued an air permit, and the water permits are expected to be issued in the near future.

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